

City of San Diego Development Services Department Plan Review Division Permit Center • 1222 First Avenue • MS-401 San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 236-6250

Building Newsletter 10-5

Winding and Spiral Stairways

Interpretations of State and Local Building Codes 1994 Uniform Building Code: Chapter 10 Revision Date: January 1996 bnl 33-10/10-5

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Winding Stairways

The Uniform Building Code permits winding stairways in Group R, Division 3 Occupancies and private stairways in Group R, Division 1 Occupancies under the following conditions:

- A. Section 1006.4 specifies that the required width of run (9 inches) shall be provided at a point not more than 12 inches from the side of the stairway where the treads are narrower, but in no case shall any width of run be less than 6 inches at any point. The width of run which has been established must be consistent at each winding tread.
- B. Compliance with all other provisions of Section 1006, such as requirements for headroom, handrails, landings, and tread rise, is required.

Figure 1 shows the minimum tread dimensions which conform to the above conditions.

II. Spiral Stairways

Spiral stairways are permitted in Group R, Division 3 Occupancies and private stairways within Group R, Division 1 Occupancies under the following conditions:

- A. When used as a required exit stairway, the area served is limited to 400 square feet.
- B. Treads must provide a clear walking area measuring at least 26 inches from the outer edge of the supporting column to the inner edge of the handrail.
- C. A run of at least $7^{1}/_{2}$ inches shall be provided at a point 12 inches from where treads are the narrowest.
 - D. The rise of every step shall not exceed 9¹/₂ inches.
- E. The rise must be sufficient to provide 6 feet 6 inches of headroom.
- F. Compliance with all other provisions of Section 1006, such as requirements for handrails and landings, is required.

Figure 2 shows the minimum tread dimensions which conform to the above conditions.

Figure 1/Winding stairways

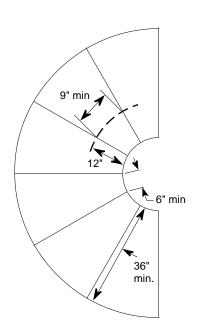


Figure 2/Spiral stairways

